Representations received from the employees of PSUs for removal of their grievances

1732. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations Government have received from the employees of Public Sector Undertakings for removal of their grievances particularly with reference to proposed closure of sick PSUs;

(b) whether communities belonging to minorities and Dalit classes have been highlighting with the Government for taking immediate measures against their extinction from employment in PSUs;

(c) whether these employees have assured Government for all cooperation for raising production and productivity;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken immediate measures to protect the above employees and their PSUs from being wound up; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) While the representations involving policy issues are dealt with the concerned authorities in Govt, the PSU-specific representations are forwarded to the PSUs concerned for taking necessary and appropriate remedial action.

Massive inventory built up by sail

1733. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a sequel to the slow down in the industrial growth the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has built by mid October, 1996 a massive inventory of over one million tonnes at its various stockyards in the country;

(b) the value in rupees of this inventory; and the cost of carrying this inventory incuding interest cost and pilferage;

(c) steps taken by Government to see that stocks are cleared at an early date; and

(d) whether there is any potential of export at marginal cost increase?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The total stocks of steel at various stock-yards and Plants of SAIL, put together, marginally exceeded one million tonnes in mid October, 1996.

(b) The total value of this inventory is about Rs. 1500 crores. The monthly carrying cost of this inventory is about Rs. 19 crores.

(c) SAIL has taken a number of steps to increase sales and check the trend of rising inventory, which include vigorous customer contact and follow-up of individual customer orders for effecting speedier delivery, orienting product-mix to suit market needs and adjusting production as per market requirements, arranging stock transfer from one branch to another to meet requirements of various customers, adopting strategic pricing depending upon market segment, competition and quantity linked bulk purchases, and maximising exports of some categories to bring down the stock levels etc.

(d) The export potential depends, among other factors, on the demand and supply in the international market and marginal cost is considered while deciding on exports. Export prices, however, are eventually determined on the basis of prices prevailing in the international market.